

Program 4: Rabbi Jesus - Part 2

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Body and Soul: Program 4

Rabbi Jesus - Part 1 (Review)

First Century Rabbi

1. Disciples Addressed Yeshua as Rabbi
 - Documented on 12 occasions

2. Definition: Rabbi

- Rav: Root word
- Great, many, numerous
- Master of a slave
- “My master” - term of respect
- After 70 AD it became a formal title for a teacher

3. First-Century Jewish Rabbi: Teaching Location

- A. Geographic Locations

- (1) Northern Kingdom (represented by Galilee)
 - (2) Southern Kingdom (a.k.a. Judea)
 - (3) Beyond the Jordan
 - (4) People Gathered from All regions to Hear Yeshua

• Galilee	• Judea	• Across the Jordan
• Jerusalem	• Decapolis	• Syria
• Edom	• Tyre	• Sidon

- B. Venues

- (1) Villages
 - (2) Homes
 - (3) Outdoors
 - (4) Synagogues
 - (5) Temple

4. Teaching Methods

- A. Discourses

- All could understand

 1. Sermon on the Mount
 2. Seven discourses in John

- B. Parables

- Chosen would understand

5. Financial Support

- Could not charge for teaching
- Could accept hospitality from listeners
- Practiced a trade

6. Father Figures

- Rabbi became like a father to his followers/disciples
- Disciples often referred to as “sons”
- Held in higher esteem than natural fathers

Rabbi Jesus - Part 2

7. Making Disciples

- Rabbi's Goal: get as many people as possible to "take upon themselves the yoke of Torah."
- Accept God's reign in their lives

Matthew 11:28-30

28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

1 John 5:3

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome

- "You will find rest for your souls"
 - Rabbinic technique:
 - Quote a portion of a verse
 - The listener would complete the verse for themselves
 - Thus achieving the full understanding of what is being said by the teacher

Jeremiah 6:16

Thus says Yehovah,

"Stand by the ways and

see and ask for the ancient paths,

Where the good way is, and walk in it;

And you will find rest for your souls.

But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'

- Jesus was not bringing a new teaching but was explaining God's unchanging truth.
- Jesus understood He would be rejected.

- Goal: Develop fully devoted followers
- Would train advanced students as disciples
- "Disciples" at times refers to the general followers and at other times to the twelve

First Century Discipleship

- Full-time apprenticeship
- Traveling the country under austere conditions
- Leaving friends and family
- Usually single because a man needed the permission of his wife if he wanted to leave for more than 30 days to follow a sage

1. Sacrificed Comfort and Security

Luke 9:57-60

⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go."

⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but **the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.**"

⁵⁹ And He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, permit me **first to go and bury my father.**"

⁶⁰ But He said to him, "**Allow the dead to bury their own dead;** but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God."

- Father not dead
- Wanted to wait until his father died so that He did not risk losing his inheritance (property - a place to lay his head - and wealth)

2. Completely Committed

Luke 9:61-62

⁶¹ Another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home."

⁶² But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

- Reference to Elijah and Elisha
- Elisha left everything in order to take on the mantle of the prophet
- We must follow immediately and without hesitation

3. Life's Priority

Luke 14:25-26

²⁵ Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them,

²⁶ "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.

- Hate: to love less than the primary object of affection
- Jesus is challenging the crowd in order to identify the true believers from the curiosity seekers

4. Long-range Process

Luke 14:28-30

²⁸ For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'

- Like Paul we want to finish our race successfully

2 Timothy 4:7

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

5. Prepares for the Consequences of Following

Luke 14:31-32

³¹ Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand?

³² Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.

- Jesus warned his disciples in **John 15:18-27** that they would be hated by men
But He promised in **Matthew 28:20** to always be with them
and in **John 16:33** He reassured them he had overcome the world

6. Surrenders Control of Their Life

Luke 14:33

³³ So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.

- A doulas/bond servant owns nothing
- A doulas/bond servant must hold nothing back from the master
- A doulas/bond servant has all of the master's resources available to them in order to fulfill the master's commands.

Philippians 4:13,19

¹³ I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. ...

¹⁹ And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

7. Rich Young Ruler: Example of a Failed Disciple

Luke 18:18

¹⁸ A ruler questioned Him, saying, “Good Teacher [Rabbi], what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁹ And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. ²⁰ You know the commandments, ‘Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.’”

²¹ And he said, “All these things I have kept from my youth.”

- He obviously never heard the Sermon on the Mount

²² When Jesus heard this, He said to him, “One thing you still lack; **sell all that you possess** and distribute it to the poor, **and you shall have treasure in heaven**; and come, follow Me.” ²³ But when he had heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich.

- Possessions were his idol
- Jesus exposes that the ruler that He did not keep the commandments!
- Tangible demonstration of the true condition of the young ruler’s heart.

²⁴ And Jesus looked at him and said, “**How hard it is for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!**”

²⁵ For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

- Hard to “give up” control of possessions to God
- Hard to rely on God and not on self
- Hard to keep possessions from becoming an idol

²⁶ They who heard it said, “**Then who can be saved?**”

²⁷ But He said, “**The things that are impossible with people are possible with God.**”

- Culture taught that the rich had found favor with God
- If the rich could not be saved, how could the common or the poor possibly be saved?
- The impossible is possible with God not only because of his omnipotence, but because the economy of God is not the economy of man.
- Economy: management or mode of operation

²⁸ Peter said, “Behold, **we have left our own homes and followed You.**”²⁹ And He said to them, “Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, ³⁰ who will not **receive many times as much at this time and in the age to come**, eternal life.”

- Relationships: Luke 9
- Possessions: Luke 18
- Beyond restoration to reward

Conclusion

- Rabbi: my master, my teacher
- Itinerate teacher & craftsman
- Not reimbursed but supported
- Goal: “develop fully devoted followers”
- Cost of discipleship: everything
(Sacrifice, Commitment, Priority, Process, Consequences, Control)
- Rewards of discipleship: eternal